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Science and Technology for Tomorrow's Aerospace Forces

Success Story

MATERIALS AND MANUFACTURING DIRECTORATE ENGINEER RECEIVES 2001 COMMANDER'S CUP INDIVIDUAL AWARD

Mr. George A. Slenski led several critical Air Force accident investigations and initiated a focused national attack on aging aircraft wiring issues. His efforts influenced major program decisions by the Air Force, National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), the National Transportation and Safety Board, and Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), significantly improving the safety and reliability of multiple Air Force and commercial aircraft.

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Accomplishment

AFRL recognized Mr. Slenski, Materials and Manufacturing Directorate's Systems Support Division Electronics Failure Analysis Team leader, with the Commander's Cup Individual Award. His selection further enhances the directorate's reputation as a national leader in electronics failure analysis and electrical wiring systems, and as the technical resource for critical accident investigations and problem resolutions. The AFRL Commander's Cup Individual Award, an annual corporate award, recognizes the person whose efforts contributed most significantly to the AFRL mission or image outside AFRL. Recipients' accomplishments have a substantial impact on AFRL and increase its credibility as a national research and development facility.

Background

Mr. Slenski led a government and industry team that, in less than two weeks, identified the principal cause of a transport aircraft electrical mishap. The team also identified specific materials and design changes to prevent future failures. Mr. Slenski's efforts resulted in the replacement of control panels on the entire fleet of transport aircraft.

Due to several successful past interactions, NASA officials added Mr. Slenski to an independent assessment team to evaluate space shuttle maintenance practices. He led the wiring assessment team that identified several issues requiring immediate action prior to future flights. He communicated team findings to the head of manned space flights at NASA and to NASA center directors.

Mr. Slenski also organized and sponsored a conference on conductive residues found in aircraft fuel tanks. The meeting kicked off a $400,000 FAA research program characterizing fuel residues based largely on Mr. Slenski's findings. Guidance to FAA investigators resulted in a new theory for the formation of fuel tank residues and the influence on electrical failures.

Senior officials from the Department of Defense and the White House Office of Technology and Policy further recognized Mr. Slenski's expertise in aging wiring and electronic failure analysis methodology and requested him to participate on a team for defining national strategy in the area of aging wiring.

Materials and Manufacturing
Awards and Recognition

Additional information

To receive more information about this or other activities in the Air Force Research Laboratory, contact TECH CONNECT, AFRL/XPTT, (800) 203-6451 and you will be directed to the appropriate laboratory expert. (01-ML-09)